

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 108695
ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 AGRE-00 ICA-20 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00
ISO-00 TRSY-06 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10
OIC-02 /121 R

DRAFTED BY OES/ENP/EN:B.LONG:NPS
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:B.LONG
IO/AGR - PAUL BYRNES (IN DRAFT)
USDA - R.BRANDT (IN SUBSTANCE)
-----091711 281734Z /64

R 281541Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS STATE 108695

FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SENV,OCON

SUBJECT:US STRATEGY CONFERENCE ON TROPICAL DEFORESTATION

1. DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND AID WILL CO-SPONSOR NATIONAL STRATEGY CONFERENCE ON TROPICAL DEFORESTATION IN WASHINGTON, JUNE 12 - 14. CONFERENCE WILL BRING TOGETHER APPROXIMATELY 60 U. S. EXPERTS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TROPICAL FOREST USE, MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION DRAWN FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INDUSTRY, ACADEMIA AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY.

2. MEETING RESPONDS TO (A) MOUNTING WORLD-WIDE CONCERN OVER UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCELERATING DEPLETION OF HUMID TROPICAL FORESTS AND LOSS OF VEGETATION AND ATTENDANT "FIREWOOD PROBLEM" IN THE DRIER TROPICS; AND (B) NUMEROUS NEW PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS BEING PROPOSED BY U. S., REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO COPE WITH PROBLEMS. PURPOSE WILL BE TO REVIEW RESULTS OF SEVERAL NEW ASSESSMENTS OF THE NATURE, MAGNITUDES AND TRENDS OF THE PROBLEMS; EXAMINE CURRENT CAPABILITIES AND

LEVEL OF EFFORT WITH RESPECT TO INSTITUTIONS, PROGRAMS, AND THE TECHNOLOGICAL STATE OF THE ART (E. G., MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT, WOOD PLANTATIONS, AGROFORESTRY, ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH, FIREWOOD ALTERNATIVES, FOREST MANAGEMENT); AND DEVELOP POLICY AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE U. S. TO PURSUE NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

3. WHILE CONFERENCE WILL FOCUS ON U. S. POLICIES AND PROGRAMS ON INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL FORESTRY, AND PARTICIPANTS WILL BE LARGELY U. S. EXPERTS, INVITATIONS ALSO BEING EXTENDED TO SEVERAL KEY REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. GIVEN KEY FAO ROLE IN FORESTRY, DEPARTMENT AND AID WOULD WELCOME FAO PARTICIPATION IN MEETING WHICH WILL INFLUENCE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS USG WILL PURSUE AND SUPPORT INTERNATIONALLY IN THE YEARS IMMEDIATELY AHEAD.

4. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER FAO ABLE TO MAKE REPRESENTATIVE AVAILABLE, U. S. ORGANIZERS WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN DOCUMENTATION PROVIDING OVERVIEW OF FAO'S CURRENT PROGRAMS AND, ESPECIALLY, FUTURE PLANS RE BOTH HUMID FORESTS AND VEGETATION-REVEGETATION PROBLEMS IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID REGIONS. THIS WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN DETERMINING WHAT U. S. SHOULD DO IN WAY OF FILLING GAPS OR INTENSIFYING SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS OF ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS FAO.

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5. ACTION REQUESTED - (A) EMBASSY REQUESTED TO INFORM APPROPRIATE FAO OFFICIALS OF CONFERENCE, AND ASSESS WHETHER FAO WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE. REPRESENTATIVE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT STATE-OF-ART OF AGROFORESTRY WOULD BE PARTICULARLY VALUABLE. (B) EMBASSY FURTHER REQUESTED TO DETERMINE IF FAO WILLING TO MAKE AVAILABLE FOR U. S. CONFERENCE A DESCRIPTION OF ITS ONGOING AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES RELATED TO HUMID TROPICAL FORESTS AND RE-VEGETATION AND "FIREWOOD" PROBLEM IN SEMI-ARID AND ARID TROPICS. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN FAO PLANS IN AGROFORESTRY AND ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING USING SATELLITE IMAGERY. WOULD NEED SHORT DESCRIPTIVE PAPER IN WASHINGTON BY JUNE 1. (C) PLEASE ADVISE BY CABLE WHO, IF ANYONE, SHOULD RECEIVE INVITATION, AND WHETHER DEPARTMENT CAN EXPECT FAO PAPER. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSERVATION, FORESTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE108695
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: B.LONG:NPS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780182-0547
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978044/aaaaacty.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 305601ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2916651
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US STRATEGY CONFERENCE ON TROPICAL DEFORESTATION
TAGS: SENV, OCON
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/305601ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014